

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Official Action dated December 10, 2007 for the above identified patent application.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claim 15 is allowed, and Claims 13 - 14, 19, and 21 - 23 are directed to allowable subject matter.

In response to the Official Action, Claims 13, 14, 21, 22, and 23 have been rewritten in independent form. Each of these claims now includes the features of prior independent Claim 10 and prior dependent Claim 11. The recitation in dependent Claim 11 "for adjusting the width of the sheet" has been revised to recite "for adaptation to the width of the profile" in order to conform this recitation to the antecedent recitation of "a profile of a metal sheet" recited in the preamble of former independent Claim 10, and now incorporated into Claims 13 - 14 and 21 - 23, as amended herein.

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled, without prejudice. As noted above, the features of these claims are now incorporated into independent Claims 13 - 14 and 21 - 23, as presented herein.

Claims 13 - 14 and 21 - 23, which were indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter but were objected to as depending upon rejected parent claims, have now been presented in

independent form, overcoming the objection raised in the Official Action. Dependent Claim 19 which was also indicated as containing allowable subject matter but objected to as depending from a rejected parent claim, now depends from allowable independent Claim 13, thereby overcoming the objection raised in the Official Action.

The form of Claim 12 has been revised to depend from independent Claim 13, and new Claims 24 - 27, which recite the features of Claim 12, depend from allowable independent Claims 14, 21, 22, and 23, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 12 and 24 - 27 are allowable, at least for the same reasons as their respective allowable parent independent claims.

The form of Claim 16 has been revised to depend from allowed independent Claim 15, thereby resulting in the allowance of Claim 16, at least for the same reasons as parent independent Claim 15.

Claim 17 has been revised to depend from allowable independent Claim 14, while Claim 18 depends from Claim 12, which is now in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 17 - 18 are allowable, at least for the same reasons as their respective parent claims.

New Claims 28 - 30 include the features of Claim 16, but depend from allowable independent Claims 21 - 23, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 28 - 30 are allowable,

at least for the same reasons as their respective parent

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered, notwithstanding the Final Action. The amendments made herein are directed exclusively to matters of form (rewriting the dependencies of the claims to overcome objections that the claims depend from rejected parent claims; rewriting claims as indicated to contain allowable subject matter as to independent form; and rephrasing a recitation in former dependent Claim 11 to conform to the recitation in the preamble of former independent Claim 10 as incorporated in independent Claims 13 - 14 and 21 - 23).

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made herein do not raise any new substantive issues requiring further search or consideration by the Patent & Trademark Office, and clearly place all pending claims in condition for allowance.

Enclosed is the fee for the additional independent claims currently pending in this patent application, in excess of the number of independent claims previously paid for.

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Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c). Also enclosed is the applicable fee required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). The undersigned represents,

pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1), that the Japanese publication identified in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was first cited by the Japanese Patent Office in connection with a Japanese patent application corresponding to the present United States patent application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement in the Patent & Trademark Office.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Japanese publication identified on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, be formally cited of record in connection with the present patent application as further generally illustrating the background state of the art.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark P. Stone', written in a cursive style.

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